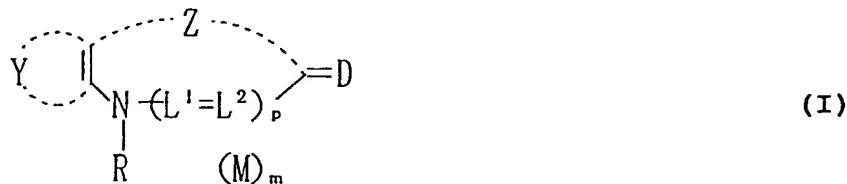


## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

### LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A silver halide photographic material which comprises at least one sensitizing methine dye represented by the following formula (I) :



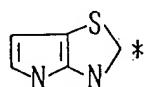
wherein Y represents a furan ring, and Y may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent; the bond between two carbon atoms in which Y is condensed may be a single bond or a double bond; Z represents an oxazole ring, a thiazole ring, an imidazole ring, selenazole ring, a 2-pyridine ring or a 4-pyridine ring, and Z may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring; R represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, aryl group, or heterocyclic group; D represents a group necessary to form a sensitizing methine dye; L<sup>1</sup> and L<sup>2</sup> each represents a methine group; p represents 0 or 1 ; M represents a counter ion; and m represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 2. (currently amended): A silver halide photographic material which comprises at least one sensitizing methine dye represented by the following formula (I):

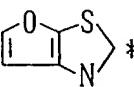


wherein Y represents an atomic group necessary to form a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, and Y may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent; the bond between two carbon atoms in which Y is condensed may be a single bond or a double bond; Z represents an atomic group necessary to form a 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring, and Z may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring; R represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, aryl group, or heterocyclic group; D represents a group necessary to form a sensitizing methine dye;  $L^1$  and  $L^2$  each represents a methine group; p represents 0 or 1; M represents a counter ion; and m represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule; wherein the condensed ring containing Y and Z in the sensitizing methine dye represented by formula (I) is selected from the following Y-1 to Y-26, provided that Y-1 to Y-3 and Y-6 to Y-26 may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent:

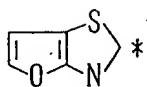
Y-1



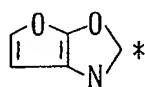
Y-2



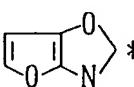
Y-3



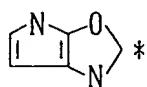
Y-6



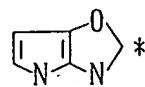
Y-7



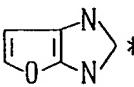
Y-8



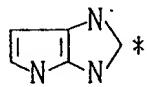
Y-9



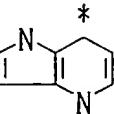
Y-10



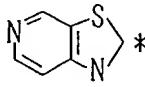
Y-11



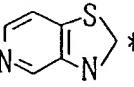
Y-12



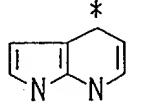
Y-13



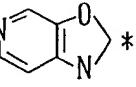
Y-14



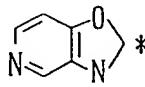
Y-15



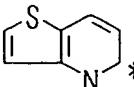
Y-16



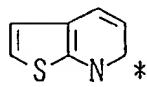
Y-17



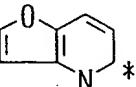
Y-18



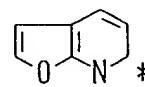
Y-19



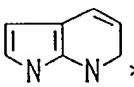
Y-20



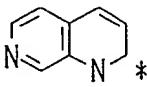
Y-21



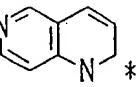
Y-22



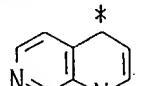
Y-23



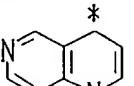
Y-24



Y-25

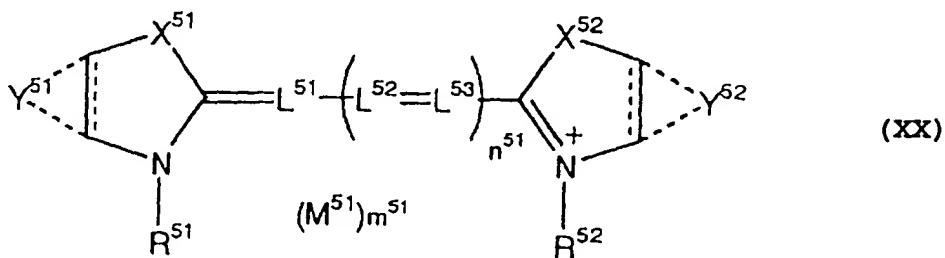


Y-26



Claim 3. (canceled).

Claim 4. (currently amended): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (I) is represented by the following formula (XX):

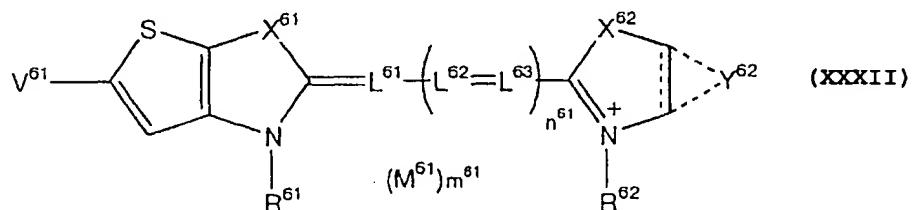
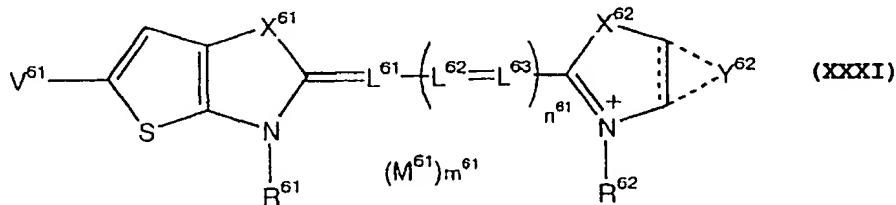


wherein  $Y^{51}$  represents a furan ring which may be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which  $Y^{51}$  is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond;  $X^{51}$  represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a selenium atom, or a nitrogen atom and  $X^{52}$  each represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a selenium atom, a tellurium atom or a nitrogen atom;  $Y^{52}$  represents an atomic group necessary to form a benzene ring or a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, which may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which  $Y^{52}$  is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond;  $R^{51}$  and  $R^{52}$  each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group;  $L^{51}$ ,  $L^{52}$  and  $L^{53}$  each represents a methine group;  $n^{51}$  represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 ;  $M^{51}$

represents a counter ion; and  $m^{61}$  represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 5. (canceled).

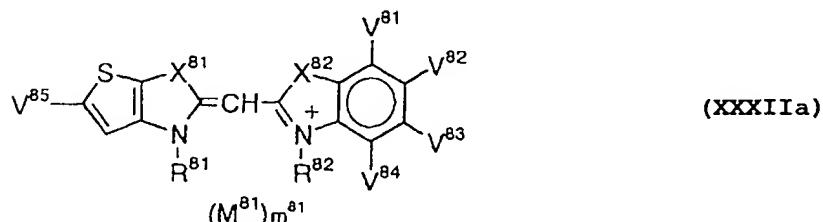
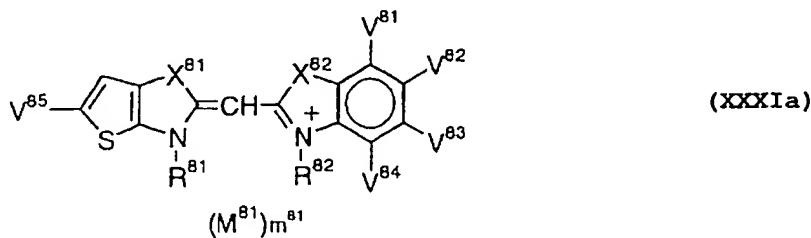
Claim 6. (currently amended): [[The]] A silver halide photographic material ~~as claimed in claim 5, wherein the which comprises at least one~~ methine dye represented by formula (XXX) is represented by the following formula (XXXI) or (XXXII):



wherein  $L^{61}$ ,  $L^{62}$  and  $L^{63}$  each represents a methine group;  $V^{61}$  represents a halogen atom;  $X^{61}$ ,  $X^{62}$ ,  $Y^{62}$ ,  $R^{61}$ ,  $R^{62}$ ,  $L^{61}$ ,  $L^{62}$ ,  $L^{63}$ ,  $n^{61}$ ,  $M^{61}$  and  $m^{61}$  each has the same meaning as defined in formula (XXX) in claim 5 ~~represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a nitrogen atom;  $X^{62}$  represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a selenium atom, a nitrogen atom, or a carbon atom;  $Y^{62}$  represents an atomic group necessary to form a benzene ring or a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, which may be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic~~

or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which Y<sup>62</sup> is condensed  
may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond; R<sup>61</sup> and R<sup>62</sup> each represents a substituted or  
unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or  
unsubstituted heterocyclic group; n<sup>61</sup> represents 0 or 1; M<sup>61</sup> represents a counter ion; and m<sup>61</sup>  
represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

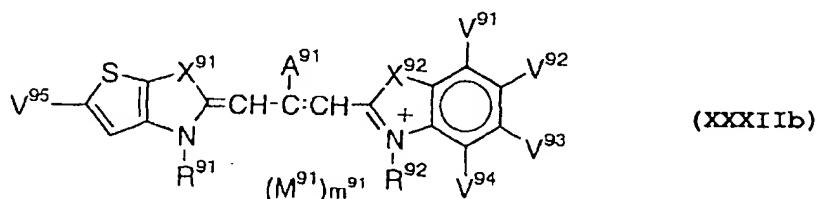
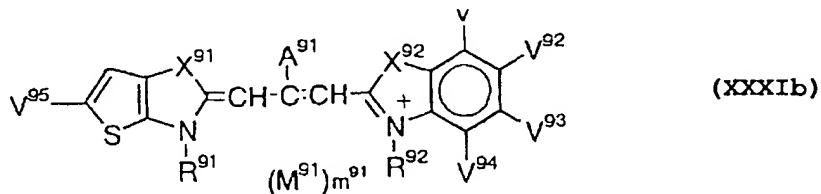
Claim 7. (original): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 6,  
wherein the methine dye represented by formula (XXXI ) or (XXXII) is represented by the  
following formula (XXXIa) or (XXXIIa):



wherein V<sup>85</sup> represents a halogen atom; X<sup>81</sup> and X<sup>82</sup> each represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; R<sup>81</sup> and R<sup>82</sup> each represents an alkyl group substituted with an acid radical; V<sup>81</sup>, V<sup>82</sup>, V<sup>83</sup> and V<sup>84</sup> each represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; M<sup>81</sup> represents a counter ion; and m<sup>81</sup> represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 8. (original): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 7, wherein in the methine dye represented by formula (XXXIa) or (XXXIIa), at least either R<sup>81</sup> or R<sup>82</sup> represents an alkyl group substituted with a carboxyl group or an alkanesulfonylcarbamoyl group, and the other represents an alkyl group substituted with a sulfo group.

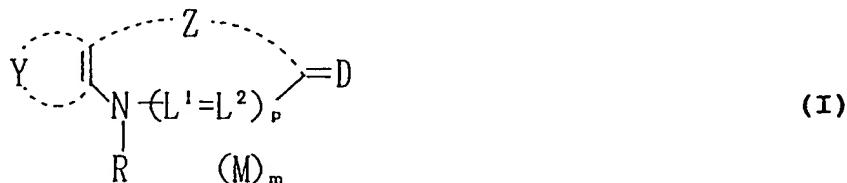
Claim 9. (original): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 6, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (XXXI) or (XXXII) is represented by the following formula (XXXIb) or (XXXIIB):



wherein V<sup>95</sup> represents a halogen atom; X<sup>91</sup> and X<sup>92</sup> each represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; R<sup>91</sup> and R<sup>92</sup> each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; A<sup>91</sup> represents a methyl group, an ethyl group or a propyl group; V<sup>91</sup>, V<sup>92</sup>, V<sup>93</sup> and V<sup>94</sup> each represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; M<sup>91</sup> represents a counter ion; and m<sup>91</sup> represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 10. (withdrawn): A methine dye represented by formula (XXXIa), (XXXIIa), (XXXIb) or (XXXIIb).

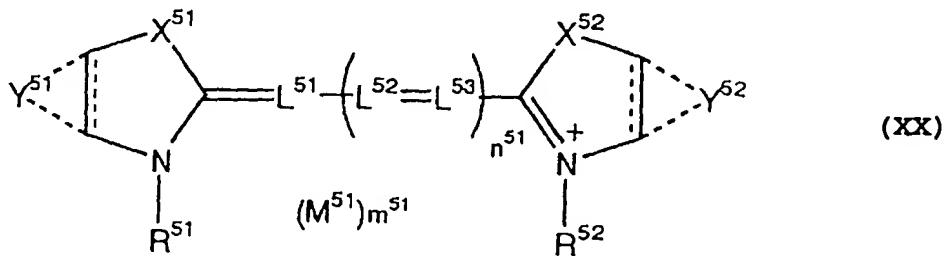
Claim 11. (currently amended): A silver halide photographic material which comprises at least one sensitizing methine dye represented by the following formula (I) :



wherein Y represents a pyrrole ring, and Y may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent; the bond between two carbon atoms in which Y is condensed may be a single bond or a double bond; Z represents ~~an atomic group necessary to form a 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring, an oxazole ring, a thiazole ring, an imidazole ring, a 2-pyridine ring or a 4-pyridine ring~~, and Z may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring; R represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, aryl group, or heterocyclic group; D represents a group necessary to form a sensitizing methine dye; L<sup>1</sup> and L<sup>2</sup> each represents a methine group; p represents 0 or 1 ; M represents a counter ion; and m represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 12. (currently amended): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 11, wherein Z represents an oxazole ring, ~~a selenazole ring, a thiazole ring, an imidazole ring, a 2-pyridine ring or a 4-pyridine ring~~.

Claim 13. (currently amended): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 11, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (I) is represented by the following formula (XX):



wherein  $Y^{51}$  represents a pyrrole ring which may be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which  $Y^{51}$  is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond;  $X^{51}$  and  $X^{52}$  each represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a selenium atom, or a nitrogen atom, or a carbon atom;  $Y^{52}$  represents an atomic group necessary to form a benzene ring or a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, which may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which  $Y^{52}$  is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond;  $R^{51}$  and  $R^{52}$  each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group;  $L^{51}$ ,  $L^{52}$  and  $L^{53}$  each represents a methine group;  $n^{51}$  represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;  $M^{51}$  represents a counter ion; and  $m^{51}$  represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.